

DISCUSSION OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 16, 18-25 and 31-34 are active in the present application. Claims 1-15 and 26-30 are canceled claims. Independent Claim 16 now recites features from previously pending Claim 17. Claim 16 further recites a groove having a trapezoidal or semicircular form. Support for the amendment to Claim 16 is found in the previously presented claims and in Figures 5 and 7. Claim 19 is amended in a manner similar to the amendments to Claim 16. The previously pending dependent claims are amended for matters of form. Claims 31-34 are new claims. Support for new Claims 31 and 32 is found in previously presented Claims 24 and 25. Claims 33-34 are new independent claims. Support for new Claims 33 and 34 is found in previously presented Claims 16 and 19 and in the Figures of the present application which describe a groove that is on the same face as air holes that are connected to a yarn channel.

No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment.

REMARKS

The present application is a National Stage application of PCT/JP05/02038 having a filing date of February 10, 2005. The effective U.S. filing date of the present application is therefore February 10, 2005.

The present application claims priority to JP 2004-037410 having a filing date of February 13, 2004. Applicants will submit a certified English translation of least a portion of the priority document. Applicants' submission of a certified English translation of JP 2004-037410 will serve to prove a date of invention of the present claims of February 13, 2004. In contrast, the JP '132 reference (JP 2004-100132) has a publication date of April 2, 2004 and qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). Applicants have antedated the JP '132 reference by providing a certified English translation of the present application.

Applicants thus submit that withdrawal of the rejections in view of the JP '132 reference is appropriate.

Because Claim 18 was rejected only over JP '132 reference, Applicants request the Office now acknowledge that Claim 18 is allowable.

Independent Claims 16 and 19 now recite an intermingling device that includes a groove which extends along a lengthwise direction of a yarn channel. The groove of Claims 16 and 19 has a trapezoidal or semicircular form. Yoshimura (U.S. 6,485,592), cited by the Office as evidence that the originally presented claims are anticipated, does not describe any apparatus that includes the intermingling device of the presently pending claims. For example, Yoshimura does not describe any device in which a yarn channel having air jet holes includes a groove of trapezoidal or semicircular form. Applicants thus submit that the rejection in view of Yoshimura should be withdrawn.

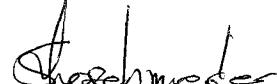
Likewise with respect to new independent Claims 33 and 34, Yoshimura does not describe any apparatus including an intermingling device having a groove on the same face of

a yarn channel which face also includes air jet holes. Applicants thus respectfully request allowance of new independent Claims 33 and 34.

For the reasons discussed above in detail, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of all now-pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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